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27 November 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: The National Aeronautics and Space Council -  
Actions and OrganizationNoted by DGI  
15 DEC 1959

1. This memorandum is for information only and contains data in response to two questions you asked Mr. Amory last Wednesday, 25 November.

2. Question 1: What were the details of the Council discussion on Monday, 23 November, as concerned large U.S. propulsion systems that caused the Chairman of the AEC to call you, and use the words "sorry decisions"?

Comment: Discussion with the Acting Council Secretary, Mr. Franklyn Phillips, revealed that there were two separate items on big motors. I cannot really identify the item of Mr. McCone's concern. The first item presented below appears the more likely candidate, but it is one on which the Council made no decision, but merely noted.

a. Dr. Glennan, in an extra item not listed on the Agenda, notified the Council that the question of relative priority of development of the Saturn booster system needed early resolution and would be a subject for action at the 29 December Council meeting. He stated that NASA had consistently desired a top priority for this development and, now that the Redstone team and the project had been turned over to NASA, that NASA would circulate the necessary papers of justification in the near future. The BOB representative indicated

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opposition because of cost, and the DOD said they could not support a top priority for this propulsion system as they had no requirements for it. (A subsequent telephone call by NASA to DOD revealed that there was no official DOD position as yet on this matter.) You will note that the awarding of a top developmental priority to the Saturn is in consonance with my briefing memorandum to you regarding the U.S. National Space Policy paper.

b. As a regular Agenda item, the Council discussed the proposed formation of a National Space Vehicle Coordination Board (see attached Draft Charter). This paper was developed by reason of Presidential request on Dr. Glennan and Mr. McElroy. The Charter was adopted, subject to a few minor changes in wording (not yet made in attachment), and the following were named as Chairman and Members, respectively: Mr. Holaday, Dr. York and Dr. Dryden. The amended Charter will be circulated to the Council shortly, and will be presented to the President for approval either at the 29 December Council meeting or before. The Acting Secretary informed me that the first order of business of this Board would be the big booster problem, with all space vehicle boosters coming within their sphere of responsibility. This Council action appears on the surface to be a good move, and I could not identify any Council discussion as the basis for Mr. McCone's concern and remarks.

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3. Question 2: Is there an understructure to the National Aeronautics and Space Council similar to the NSC's Planning Board or the OCB's Board Assistants, and is there a mechanism whereby you may be informed at a prior time of Council Agenda items and their substance?

Comment: The Council has no understructure at the present time except for an Acting Secretary, Mr. Franklyn Phillips, who is on loan from NASA. The reasons underlying the non-selection of a permanent secretary with some type of an understructure to achieve preliminary coordination, is not known to the undersigned, nor presumably to Mr. Phillips, as I questioned him on this point.

Mr. Phillips was quite agreeable to the inclusion of your office on the circulation list for one copy of Council papers, including Agenda and working papers, and this will be started at once. The Agency is already receiving Minutes of the Council meetings. Mr. Phillips further was of the opinion that normally only you can attend Council meetings, although it would be discretionary with you as to the number of assistants you might bring with you on Council actions where intelligence was directly involved.

It should be noted that the Council appears to have discussed several items at each meeting which do not show on the formal Agenda. At the 23 November meeting there were about six of these miscellaneous

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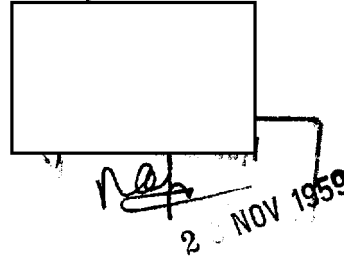
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items. Apparently the President encourages members to speak their minds. Without regular attendance at meetings, it will not be possible to be privy to all subjects discussed until the Minutes are published.

Enclosure:

Draft Terms of Reference  
Nat'l Space Veh. Coord. Bd.

cc: DDCI  
DDI  
AD/CI  
AD/SI  
DD/P



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November 20, 1959

**DRAFT OF  
TERMS OF REFERENCE  
FOR  
NATIONAL SPACE VEHICLE COORDINATION BOARD**

**ORGANIZATION:**

1. A Space Vehicle Coordination Board is hereby established.

**OBJECTIVE:**

2. The role of the Space Vehicle Coordination Board, hereinafter called the "Board," is as follows:

Provide a mechanism for the effective coordination and consolidation of the pertinent space vehicle development projects of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Department of Defense, including the military services, into a National Space Vehicle Program.

**DEFINITIONS:**

3. For the purpose of further clarifying the objective of the Board, a space vehicle is defined as the component stages including the structural members, engines, propellants, tanks, auxiliary power sources, and the guidance and control equipment used for injecting a civilian or military payload into an orbital or space probe type trajectory.

**FUNCTIONS AND AUTHORITY:**

4. The Board is authorized and directed to:

- a. Investigate and review:

- (1) The changes in a space vehicle required to meet its over-all performance objectives as established under the National Space Vehicle Program hereinafter called the "Program."
    - (2) The deletion of a space vehicle from the Program.
    - (3) The modification of a space vehicle that changes its performance capabilities or physical size.
    - (4) Planning for development of all new space vehicles.

- b. Review periodically the current and planned ballistic and guided missile program with a view to using to the maximum extent these developments in the space vehicle program.

- c. Report to the President through the National Aeronautics and Space Council actions taken by the Board in involving situations where the impact on the Program is relatively minor; and resolved solutions for

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